WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.     An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus, comprising:

a judging means for judging whether the amount of an electronic revenue stamp to be issued is equal to or less than a possible

5    amount to issue in which a prepaid amount is stored or not;

an issuing means for issuing said electronic revenue stamp as data attached a signature of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to a message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and an identifier of a

10   receiver of said electronic revenue stamp, in case that said amount of said electronic revenue stamp is equal to or less than said possible amount to issue; and

a balance amount reducing means for reducing said amount of said electronic revenue stamp from said possible amount to issue, when

15   said electronic revenue stamp was issued.


2.     An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

a verifying means, when said verifying means receives a certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid attached a signature

5    of said receiver, verifies whether said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver;

an amount increasing means for increasing said possible amount to issue by said amount of said electronic revenue stamp made to

10   be invalid; and

an invalid electronic revenue stamp recording means for recording said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid that was made to be invalid.

3.　An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said issuing means issues said electronic revenue stamp as data attached said signature of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to specify said electronic revenue stamp, in addition to said message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and said identifier of said receiver of said electronic revenue stamp.

4.　An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein:

said verifying means, when said verifying means receives said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid attached said signature of said receiver, verifies whether said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver and an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus, when said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus gives said issued number to said electronic revenue stamp.

5.　An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

invalid electronic revenue stamp data in which data of electronic revenue stamps made to be invalid are stored.

6.　An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

an issued electronic revenue stamp recording means which records issued electronic revenue stamps; and

5 issued electronic revenue stamp and invalid electronic revenue stamp data in which data of said issued electronic revenue stamp data and electronic revenue stamps made to be invalid are stored when said electronic revenue stamps are made to be invalid.

7. An electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein:

said verifying means verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is issued for an electronic revenue stamp

5 issued by said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus and also issued by a receiver who is an valid receiver of said electronic revenue stamp, and also verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid was not used before.

8. An electronic revenue stamp issuing method, comprising the steps of:

judging whether the amount of an electronic revenue stamp to be issued is equal to or less than a possible amount to issue in which a

5 prepaid amount is stored or not;

issuing said electronic revenue stamp as data attached a signature of an electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to a message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and an identifier of a receiver of said electronic

10 revenue stamp, in case that said amount of said electronic revenue stamp is equal to or less than said possible amount to issue; and

reducing said amount of said electronic revenue stamp from said possible amount to issue, when said electronic revenue stamp was issued.

9. An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance

with claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

when a certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid attached a signature of said receiver is received, verifying whether said

5 certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver;

increasing said possible amount to issue by said amount of said electronic revenue stamp made to be invalid; and

recording said certificate making electronic revenue stamp

10 invalid that was made to be invalid.

10. An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 8, wherein:

said issuing step issues said electronic revenue stamp as data attached said signature of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to specify said electronic revenue stamp, in addition to said message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and said identifier of said receiver of said electronic revenue stamp.

11. An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 9, wherein:

said verifying step, when said verifying step receives said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid attached said

5 signature of said receiver, verifies whether said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver and an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus, when said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus gives said issued number to said electronic revenue

10 stamp.

12.     An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising the step of:

storing invalid electronic revenue stamp data that are data of electronic revenue stamps made to be invalid.

13.     An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

recording issued electronic revenue stamps; and

storing issued electronic revenue stamp data and invalid electronic revenue stamp data made to be invalid when said electronic revenue stamps are made to be invalid.

14.     An electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 9, wherein:

said verifying step verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is issued for an electronic revenue stamp issued by said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus and also issued by a receiver who is an valid receiver of said electronic revenue stamp, and also verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid was not used before.

15.     A recording medium stored a control program of an electronic revenue stamp issuing method, comprising the steps of:

judging whether the amount of an electronic revenue stamp to be issued is equal to or less than a possible amount to issue in which a prepaid amount is stored or not;

issuing said electronic revenue stamp as data attached a signature of an electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to a message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and an identifier of a receiver of said electronic

10  revenue stamp, in case that said amount of said electronic revenue stamp is equal to or less than said possible amount to issue; and

reducing said amount of said electronic revenue stamp from said possible amount to issue, when said electronic revenue stamp was issued.

16.  A recording medium stored a control program of an electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

when a certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid

5  attached a signature of said receiver is received, verifying whether said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver;

increasing said possible amount to issue by said amount of said electronic revenue stamp made to be invalid; and

10  recording said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid that was made to be invalid.

17.  A recording medium stored a control program of an electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

said issuing step issues said electronic revenue stamp as data

5  attached said signature of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus to specify said electronic revenue stamp, in addition to said message to be attached to said electronic revenue stamp, the amount of said electronic revenue stamp, and said identifier of

10  said receiver of said electronic revenue stamp.

18.  A recording medium stored an electronic revenue stamp

issuing method in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

said verifying step, when said verifying step receives said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid attached said
5  signature of said receiver, verifies whether said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is valid or not by using said identifier of said receiver and an issued number (a serial number) of said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus, when said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus gives said issued number to said electronic revenue
10  stamp.

19.  A recording medium stored a control program of an electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising the step of:

storing invalid electronic revenue stamp data that are data of electronic revenue stamps made to be invalid.

20.  A recording medium stored an electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

recording issued electronic revenue stamps; and
5  storing issued electronic revenue stamp data and invalid electronic revenue stamp data made to be invalid when said electronic revenue stamps are made to be invalid.

21.  A recording medium stored an electronic revenue stamp issuing method in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

said verifying step verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid is issued for an electronic revenue stamp
5  issued by said electronic revenue stamp issuing apparatus and also issued by a receiver who is an valid receiver of said electronic revenue

stamp, and also verifies that said certificate making electronic revenue stamp invalid was not used before.

22. A recording medium stored a control program of an electronic revenue stamp issuing method, wherein:

said recording medium stored said control program of said electronic revenue stamp issuing method is an IC card.